

# The Ballarat Naturalist

July 2018



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## Fantastic Fungi

Speaker: Les Hanrahan

Les began his talk by explaining some of the characteristics of fungi. Most fungi have a multicellular body made of fine branching threads called hyphae. The cell walls are made of a type of chitin similar to that found in insects. The part of fungi usually observed is the fruiting body which produces single-celled spores.

Fungi are heterotrophs which obtain nutrients by excreting enzymes to digest food which is then absorbed. Some fungi are parasitic feeding on living on things. Others are saprotrophic. These fungi decay dead organic matter hence playing an important role in recycling nutrients. Another group of fungi are mycorrhizal fungi associated with plants roots. These fungi obtain carbohydrates from the plant and help the plant absorb minerals from the soil.

The arrangement of the gills, shape of cap, shape of stem and colour of spores are used in identifying fungi in the field.

Les showed photos which he has taken over the years. He explained many interesting feature of the fungi and where they are found. We are grateful that Les shared his knowledge of this important but often overlooked sector of natural history.

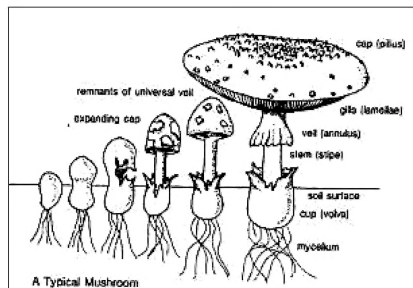
John Gregurke

*Further notes written by Les: (Blurred diagram labels: italics in text)*

### How do you go about identifying fungi species?

Judging by the photos of fungi I get sent to identify, some people think that a photo of a mushroom from above should provide me with sufficient information to name the fungi. I sometimes wish it was as easy as that.

There are some fungi, like the Fly Agaric in the accompanying illustration of a ***Typical mushroom*** on the next page, that one can be certain to get right, but most times one needs to see what is underneath the ***cap*** to be surer of an identification. Looking underneath the cap with a small mirror will tell one whether the mushroom has ***gills***,



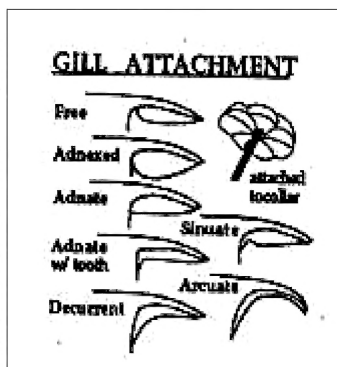
**pores or teeth** as a membrane for the production and dispersion of the spores that are the reproductive units of the fungi.

If the stem has a ring, that is, the remains of the **partial veil** that protected the **gills or pores** during development, this can be a help in naming a genus. Not all

mushrooms have all the features pictured in the above **Typical mushroom** illustration.

Whether or not and how the gills are attached to the stem can be a help in naming a fungi genus.

The diagram of **Gill attachment** (right) shows gills that are **free** or not attached to the stem like the common mushroom that one might buy at Coles. Other types of attachments are called **adnexed** where part of the width of gill is attached to the stem, **adnate** where the full width of the gill is attached to stem, and **decurrent** where the gills run down the stem.



**Colour of the cap and the gills** can vary between specimens of the same fungi species and with the age of the mushroom.

Les Hanrahan

## Fungi foray in Blackwood

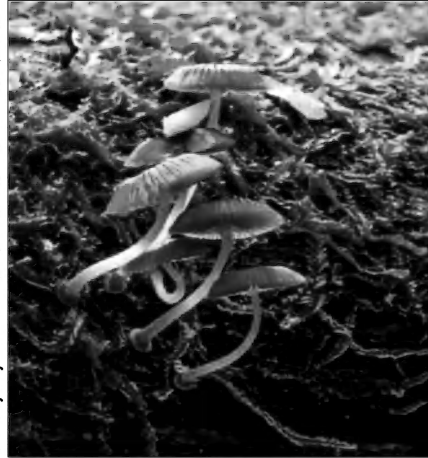
Led by Les Hanrahan



A small group of FNCB meet at Garden St Erth, carpark, Blackwood and were joined by a few visitors from Bendigo FNC, Wombat Forest Group and others from Ballarat. The fungi this season are not as spectacular as they have been because of the dry autumn. There was abundant variety of small species but a limited number of larger colourful ones.

**Photo:** Cortinarius erythrocephalus  
Sticky Red Cortinar

Members were equipped for the day with their well-illustrated fungi foldouts or books. The fungi spotted behind Garden St. Earth and, after lunch, across the road past the second carpark are listed in the accompanying table on pages 4 and 5. The common names describe well what we saw for many of the fungi, e.g. Pixie's parasol (photo opposite)..



**Photo:** *Mycena interrupta*  
Blue Pixie Parasol

Although it was the beginning of winter the sun shone for some of the day. Not that we felt much of its warmth as our first path took us deep into a valley of the creek behind Garden St Erth. But before we not gone far from the carpark we began finding our first specimens of fungi.

Flowers, as to be expected in winter, were in short supply. Yet there were many Common Heath plants of all shades of pink. We did not examine many of the big trees but did notice many *Olearia Argophylla* with their hairy silver-backed leaves in the gully. Some of this genus can develop a lignotuber base (like Mallee trees) hundreds of years old with a number of stems. Sadly the holly trees continue to flourish and are now widespread throughout the area. Even the birds were in scarce supply, though Indra often alerted us to them giving the name associated with the call heard.

Much of the bush is new forest after the goldmining era during which trees would have been cut down for various uses. This area was an important goldmining area from which two tons of gold were extracted from the famous Simmon's Reef. One very deep mining shaft was able to be safely viewed as it was carefully fenced in.

At the end of the morning we worked our way back to the carpark for lunch. After lunch we headed south towards the Great Diving

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 : **\*\*\* If you missed this 3 June excursion—** :  
 : *On Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup> the Victorian Field Naturalist Fungi* :  
 : *group will hold an excursion from the Garden of St. Erth* :  
 : *carpark, Blackwood. Meet at 10:15am. Visitors welcome.* :  
 : *A \$5.00 fee may be charged for visitors to this excursion.* :  
 : **Enquiries: Les Hanrahan** :  
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**Photo:** *Artomyces austropiperata*,  
Peppery Coral

Trail track where we continued to find new species to arrive at a total of about 70 recorded for the day.



Les, along with others in the group continue to be a great source of knowledge of fungi. Thanks Les for doing all that was necessary to lead the group.

Fran Hanrahan

**Photo:** *Psathyrella echinate*, Spiny  
*Psathyrella*

**Blackwood fungi species seen on 03/06.2018**

Name	Common name
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly Agaric
<i>Artomyces austropiperata</i>	Peppery Coral
<i>Boletellus obscurecoccineus</i>	Rhubarb Bolete
<i>Bovista brunnea</i>	
<i>Calocera sinensis</i>	Pretty Horn
<i>Campanella olivaceonigra</i>	Little Bells
<i>Chlorociboria aurigenascens</i>	Funnel Cap
<i>Coprinellus disseminatus</i>	Fairies Bonnets
<i>Cortinarius rotundisporus</i>	Elegant Blue Cortinar
<i>Cortinarius aff.lavendulensis</i>	
<i>Cortinarius austroalbidus</i>	Australian White Cortinar
<i>Cortinarius austrocinnabarinus</i>	
<i>Cortinarius erythrocephalus</i>	Sticky Red Cortinar
<i>Crepidotus crocophyllus</i>	
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	Variable Crep
<i>Discinella terrestris</i>	Yellow Earth Buttons
<i>Enteloma readiae</i>	
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	Witch's Butter
<i>Fistulina hepatica</i>	Beef Steak
<i>Galerina hypnorum</i>	Moss Gallerina
<i>Gymnopilus allantopus</i>	

Gymnopilus junonius	Giant Gold Cap
Heterotextus miltinus	Yellow Jelly-bells
Hypholoma australe	
Hypholoma fasciculare	Sulphur Tufts
Hypocrea cf megalosulphurea	
Laccaria sps.	
Lactarius eucalypti	
Lepiota sp.	
Leucoagaricus rubrotinctus	
Macrolepiota clelandii	Slender Parasol Mushroom
Marasmiellus affixus	Little Stinker
Marasmiellus alveolaris	
Marasmius crinisequi gp.	Horse-hair fungi
Marasmius elegans	Velvet Marasmius
Mycena albidocapillaris	
Mycena albidofusca	White-crowned Mycena
Mycena austrofilopes	
Mycena cystidiosa	Tall Mycena
Mycena epipterygia group	Yellow-stemmed Mycena
Mycena interrupta	Pixie's parasol
Mycena kuurkacea	Bleeding Mycena
Mycena maldea	
Mycena subgalericulata	
Mycena subvulgaris	
Mycena vinacea	
Oudemansiella gigaspora	Rooting Shank
Panellus pusillus	
Psathyrella echinata	Spiny Psathyrella
Psilocybe subaeruginosum	Magic Mushroom
Ramaria crocea	
Rhodocollybia butyracea	Buttery Collybia
Rigidoporus laetus	
Russula integra	
Russula lenkunya	
Russula persanguinea	Red Brittle-gill
Singerocybe clitocyboides	
Scleroderma australe	Earth Ball
Stereum illudens	Purplish Stereum
Stropharia semiglobata	Dung Round Head
Suillus luteus	Slippery Jack
Trametes versicolor	Rainbow Fungus
Tremella fuciformis	White Jelly
Tricholoma saponaceum	
Tubifera rufofulva	
Xeromphalina leonina	Baby Belly Buttons

## **Extracts from Club Meeting Minutes 1 June**

### **Opening and Apologies**

Attendance: President welcomed 28 members and visitors, especially new members Heather Merrylees and Robert Scott.

Apologies: Sophie Akers, David & Sullivan Horwood, Bill & Kathy Elder, Peter & Emily Noble, John Petheram, Genny Binns, Mark Moravec, Val Hocking, Margaret Thomas, Marie & Tim Keatley

### **Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Opening bal: \$8,137.49 Income \$215.00  
Expenses \$129.97 Closing bal: \$8222.52

### **iNaturalist**

Les Hanrahan reported that last month he went to Blackwood with some fellow members of Wombat Forestcare to meet a mycologist Dr Saffhire McMullan-Fisher from Fungimap. Fungimap is trialling the use of the iNaturalist app so that people can photograph fungi with their mobile phones. The app uploads information about when and where an observation was made and who made it. In this way Fungimap should gather more information about when and where fungi have been seen in Australia.

### **General Business**

Next Club Meeting: Members' Images- Something different. This could be anything: a coral; an insect; a fungi; a bird; a geological phenomenon; an animal, plant, moss, lichen, nest, .. Bring along an unusual item for show and tell, or a few photos on a USB stick with a short story to share with other members.

FNCB grant application (prepared by John Petheram) for Ecological monitoring to support management and education at Woowookarung RP has been unsuccessful after all John's hard work.

Woowookarung RP draft plan circulated by Emily. Submissions in response to it close Monday 11 June. John Gregurke described it as being conceptual and does not include nitty gritty items such as re-generation of pine plantation area and management of tracks to limit their number.

Open House sessions were held in early June, 2018#

**Native Plant Show** Australian Plants Society is holding the show on 30 June, 1 July at the Robert Clarke Centre, Botanic Gardens.

Bruce Pascoe presentation for FoCC is booked out.

### **Show & Tell/ Field Reports**

Les Hanrahan showed spore prints from three different fungi.

Ken Hammond saw Australian Kestrel and Red-browed Finch at the Ballarat Town Common. The common has large areas of blackberry.

Carol Hall observed a Pelican being dive-bombed by Silver Gulls.

Andy Arnold has Eastern Spinebill feeding on salvias in his Alfredton garden.

John Gregurke observed Small Mosquito-orchids *Acianthus pusillus* beginning to flower at Dereel. At Enfield Tiny Greenhoods *Pterostylis parviflora* are developing seed pods but two late flowers were seen at the top of a spike. Common Correa *Correa reflexa* and Prickly Broom-heath *Monotoca scoparia* are flowering.

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: ***Excursion Sun, 8 July, : Rediscovering Ballarat's Bushland*** :  
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Leader: Emily Noble

: Excursion will leave as usual, at 9.30 am from carpark, corner of :  
: Gillies St and Gregory St. Other meeting points may be arranged. :  
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: Excursion will cover areas south of Ballarat, including Union :  
: Jack Reserve, Mt Buninyong, and Durham Lead. :  
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## CALENDAR 2018

### July

- Fri 6      *Members' Images—Something different:* FNCB members
- Sun 8      *Exc. Rediscovering Ballarat's Bushland, south of Ballarat:* Emily Noble, FNCB
- Tues 24    Committee Meeting - Val Hocking's

### August

- Fri 3      My nature year: Roger Thomas, FNCB
- Sun 5      *Exc. Ballarat Community Nursery & North Gardens Wetlands:* Roger Thomas, FNCB
- Tues 28    Committee meeting TBA

### Committee

President	John Gregurke
Vice Pres	Fran Hanrahan
Secretary	Emily Noble
Treasurer	Les Hanrahan
	Andy Arnold
	Bill Elder
	Val Hocking
	John Petheram
	Elsbeth Swan

**Correspondence:** PO Box 328W, Ballarat West, 3350

**Email:** Secretary:- Emily Noble  
 Editors: Fran Hanrahan  
 Bill Elder

**Website:** <http://fieldnatballarat.wordpress.com>

**Club email:** [ballaratfnc@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratfnc@gmail.com)

**Meetings** are held at Federation University Gillies St Campus on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm.

**Excursions:** Leave from the carpark of Federation University Gillies St Campus at 9.30 am, unless otherwise advised.

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